

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
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UNCLAS GENEVA 03725

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, CG
SUBJECT: CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE: UNHCR REQUEST
FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: 77 STATE 303442 (NOTAL)

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM UNHCR DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER WHICH REFERS WITH THANKS TO EARLIER CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 FOR ASSISTANCE TO CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE THROUGH IRC AND CRS (REFTEL). LETTER ADDS THAT IN DECEMBER 1977 THERE WAS "SUDDEN AND UNFORESEEN INFLUX" OF REFUGEES FROM NORTHERN ANGOLA INTO BAS-ZAIRE. INITIALLY THESE REFUGEES WERE ASSISTED UNDER EXISTING UNHCR PROGRAM. BY END OF JANUARY 1978, HOWEVER, NUMBER OF REFUGEES, ESTIMATED AT 3,000 AS OF THE END OF 1977, HAD REACHED SOME 30,000, AND THE INFLUX IS CONTINUING.

2. LETTER STATES THAT REFUGEES ARE REPORTED IN DESTITUTE CONDITION AND IMMEDIATE FOOD AID AND RELIEF ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED TO AVOID MALNUTRITION AND HEALTH HAZARDS. UNHCR PLANS TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR THREE MONTHS, WHILE MEASURES ARE UNDERWAY TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM WFP.

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3. IN ADDITION TO IMMEDIATE FOOD ASSISTANCE, OTHER RELIEF ITEMS AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS ALSO NEEDED TO ASSIST REFUGEES ATTAIN A DEGREE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY ASAP. LETTER NOTES THERE MUST ALSO BE PROVISION TO FINANCE TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS AND STORAGE BEING MADE BY UNHCR AND ITS OPERATIONAL PARTNER IN ZAIRE.

4. ATTACHED NOTE PROVIDES "APPROXIMATE ESTIMATES" OF FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR THREE MONTH PERIOD. THESE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. EMERGENCY FEEDING FOR 3 MONTHS (30,000 PEOPLE)

1. MAIZE MEAL 300 GR/PER DAY \$ 150,000
(RICE WOULD COST \$324,000)
2. PULSES 50 GR/PER DAY - - - 50,000
(LOCALLY AVAILABLE AT MUCH HIGHER PRICES)
3. CANNED FISH 30 GR/PER DAY 110,000
(CANNED MEAT WOULD COST \$170,000)
4. VEGETABLE OIL 30 GR/PER DAY 50,000
(BUTTEROIL WOULD COST CONSIDERABLY MORE)

B. TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS 100,000

C. RELIEF SUPPLIES

1. CLOTHING - - - - - 50,000
2. BLANKETS - - - - - 50,000
3. MEDICINES - - - - - 20,000

D. AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES

1. TOOLS - - - - - 50,000
2. SEEDS - - - - - 50,000

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TOTAL \$680,000.

5. LETTER CONCLUDES WITH APPEAL FOR URGENT AND GENEROUS U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO MEET THESE UNFORESEEN NEEDS FOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

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